

2010 DISABILITY POLICY SEMINAR

THE ARC, AAIDD, AUCD, UCP, NACDD AND SABE

TALKING POINTS FOR ADVOCATES

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FMAP EXTENSION

- States across the country are facing huge budget deficits due to the economic recession. Because states are required by state law to balance their budgets, they have been required to cut many human services programs.
- Medicaid provides critical health and long term services and supports for people with disabilities. It also provides jobs to those who serve them. Almost all states have been forced to cut Medicaid services for people with disabilities (**tell your own state's story**).
- In February 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA - known as the economic stimulus bill) was enacted. It includes a two-year \$87 billion increase in the federal share of Medicaid spending (known as the FMAP). This temporary FMAP increase has provided needed relief to state Medicaid programs.
- The ARRA increase will expire on December 31, 2010. States are still facing huge budget deficits and are making cuts to their Medicaid programs.
- The Senate recently passed a 6 month extension to the ARRA FMAP increase as part of its tax extenders bill. In December, 2009, the House of Representatives passed the FMAP extension as part of a large jobs bill which the Senate is not expected to adopt.
- Most states are already planning to use the FMAP extension funding in their next budgets.

Congress should:

- Pass a six month extension to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's temporary increase in the federal share of Medicaid spending (FMAP) so that states so that states can avoid making huge cuts to their Medicaid programs.
- This extension will create and save jobs.

3/26/10